UNITED
NATIONS

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1997/41
17 January 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 17 JANUARY 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF LEBANON TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to inform you that the Government of Lebanon hereby requests the Security Council to extend the mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), which expires on 31 January 1997, for a further interim period of six months, on the basis of the provisions of Security Council resolution 425 (1978) and all other relevant resolutions and decisions of the Security Council.

In view of Israel's continued aggression against Lebanon and the serious setbacks suffered by the peace process, it must be emphasized that the full implementation of Security Council resolution 425 (1978) remains the only way to stop the violence in southern Lebanon, enabling the Government of Lebanon to extend its sovereign authority throughout the area under occupation to the internationally recognized boundaries, and re-establish law and order throughout the region.

In this context, UNIFIL represents the international community's commitment to the restoration of Lebanon's full sovereignty and territorial integrity. UNIFIL's role is to confirm the withdrawal of Israeli forces, restore international peace and security and assist the Government of Lebanon in ensuring the return of its effective authority in the area. Its support and humanitarian assistance are helpful to the civilian population, who have expressed their great appreciation. However, this assistance cannot be a substitute for the fulfilment of UNIFIL's original mandate as stipulated in resolution 425 (1978).

The Monitoring Group, which emanated from the April 1996 understanding, in the wake of the Israeli aggression of April 1996, has played a role in reducing the intensity of the shelling directed against civilians in southern Lebanon and western Bekaa. However, the objective of this Group is necessarily of a temporary nature and is in no way an alternative to the full implementation of Security Council resolution 425 (1978), which called upon Israel to cease its military action against Lebanese territorial integrity and withdraw forthwith its forces from all Lebanese territory.

Lebanon's comprehensive national recovery remains hampered by Israel's continued occupation of southern Lebanon and its daily aggression against its territory and citizens.

Israel continues to refuse the release of hundreds of innocent Lebanese detainees held for years in Israeli jails and the notorious detention camps in Al-Khiam and Marjayoun, in southern Lebanon, manned by the Israelis in violation of the Geneva Conventions. Many of the detainees are suffering from serious diseases as a result of harsh living conditions, subjection to ill-treatment and denial of medical care. Others have died in the camps or shortly after being released. The detainees have been subjected to physical and mental torture in further violation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Lebanon remains wholly committed to the Middle East peace process in order to achieve a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East based on Security Council resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973) and 425 (1978). Lebanon agreed to participate in the Madrid peace conference and subsequent rounds of negotiations in Washington on the basis of resolution 425 (1978), as was confirmed by the letter of assurances dated 18 October 1991 from the Government of the United States of America, as co-sponsor of the conference, to the Government of Lebanon.

I am pleased to report in this context that the national reconstruction and rehabilitation process is moving ahead. Efforts to rebuild the new commercial centre in downtown Beirut and to modernize the national infrastructure are ongoing. Priority has been given to basic services such as electricity, telecommunications, transportation, waterworks, schools and hospitals.

The Government of Lebanon avails itself of this opportunity to pay tribute to the UNIFIL Command, administrators, troops and troop-contributing countries for the noble efforts and sacrifices made in the cause of peace. It is, moreover, pleased to report that the Command of UNIFIL and the Lebanese authorities continue to coordinate with the goal of deploying the Lebanese Army throughout the southern part of the country to its internationally recognized boundaries. In this regard, the Government of Lebanon considers that the operational strength and capacity of UNIFIL should be maintained.

Furthermore, the Government of Lebanon wishes to express its deep appreciation to the Secretary-General and his assistants for their tireless efforts, which contribute to the valuable presence of UNIFIL in southern Lebanon.

I would be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Samir MOUBARAK
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

UNITED
NATIONS

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1997/42
20 January 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE UNITED NATIONS INTERIM FORCE IN LEBANON

(for the period from 21 July 1996 to 17 January 1997)

Introduction

1. The present report is submitted in pursuance of Security Council resolution 1068 (1996) of 30 July 1996, by which the Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) for a further period of six months, until 31 January 1997. It covers developments since the previous report, dated 20 July 1996 (S/1996/575).

Situation in the area of operation

2. During the past six months, the situation in UNIFIL's area of operation was somewhat calmer than in the previous mandate period. Hostilities continued between the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) and its local Lebanese auxiliary, the de facto forces (DFF), on the one hand, and armed elements who have proclaimed their resistance against the Israeli occupation on the other. There was a lull in hostilities from the beginning of the mandate period until the end of the Lebanese parliamentary elections in September. This was followed by a gradual increase in armed activity. In recent weeks, the level of hostilities has risen further, especially north of the Litani River. The fighting caused a number of casualties.

3. UNIFIL observed 92 operations by armed elements against IDF/DFF (5 in the last 11 days of July, 11 in August, 8 in September, 16 in October, 19 in November, 6 in December and 16 in the first half of January 1997). There were also reports of more than 160 clashes between the IDF/DFF and armed elements north of the Litani River. The vast majority of the attacks were carried out by the Islamic Resistance, the military wing of the Shiite Muslim Hizbullah organization. A few of them were carried out by the Shiite movement Amal, while one is believed to have been carried out by a Palestinian group. In their attacks against IDF/DFF, armed elements used small arms, mortars, rocket-propelled grenades, anti-tank missiles, road-side bombs and rockets.

During the period under review, armed elements fired more than 900 mortar rounds, rockets and anti-tank missiles.

4. IDF/DFF, in response to attacks or in operations they initiated, employed artillery, mortars, tanks, helicopter gunships and fixed-wing aircraft. On numerous occasions, IDF/DFF conducted pre-emptive artillery bombardments, usually to cover troop movements or rotation convoys. UNIFIL recorded more than 9,000 artillery, mortar and tank rounds fired by IDF/DFF within the six-month period, significantly fewer than in previous periods. Air raids by IDF increased markedly in recent weeks, as Israel began using combat aircraft to respond to attacks on its forces. The air raids were carried out north of the Litani River, except one in the Nepalese battalion sector on 5 January 1997.

5. As before, the Israeli navy patrolled the Lebanese territorial waters in the south. Restrictions it imposed on the local fishermen appeared less severe than in the past.

6. Firing into populated areas decreased markedly, compared to the past. In UNIFIL's area of operation the main incidents were on 28 August 1996, when two civilians were wounded near an IDF/DFF position at Shihin by a mortar round fired by armed elements, and on 11 October, when IDF fired into the village of Safed al Battikh in the Irish battalion sector, wounding 13 civilians, four of them seriously. Other casualties were reported from north of the Litani, notably on 7 December 1996, when six civilians were injured by Israeli tank fire in Kafer Tibnite. At least two rockets were fired into northern Israel on 13 December 1996 and at least one rocket was fired on 7 January 1997. No casualties were reported and no organization has claimed responsibility for the attacks. The Lebanese authorities arrested two persons suspected of having been involved in the second rocket firing.

7. UNIFIL continued its efforts to limit the conflict and to protect the inhabitants from the fighting. Through its network of checkpoints and observation posts and an active programme of patrolling as well as continuous contacts with the parties, the Force did its best to prevent its area of deployment from being used for hostile activities and to defuse situations that could lead to escalation. It also deployed as necessary, to provide a measure of protection to the villages and to farmers working in the fields.

8. As reported in July 1996 (S/1996/575, para. 23), UNIFIL had obtained a commitment from IDF that it would respect a safety zone around UNIFIL positions and received assurances from the Islamic Resistance that they would not conduct operations in the vicinity of UNIFIL positions. During the reporting period, both sides showed more restraint in this regard. Nevertheless, a total of 78 firings at or close to UNIFIL positions and personnel were recorded (76 by IDF/DFF and two by armed elements). UNIFIL promptly protested all such instances to the authorities concerned. In a potentially very serious incident on 28 August 1996, IDF/DFF fired a mortar round into a position of the Finnish battalion. Fortunately, the round caused only minor injuries to a Finnish soldier.

9. The monitoring group set up under the understanding of 26 April 1996 held 11 meetings at UNIFIL headquarters to consider complaints by Israel and Lebanon.

In addition to providing facilities for the meetings, UNIFIL also provided transport and security for investigations in the field.

10. Within the Israeli-controlled area (ICA), Israel continued to maintain a civil administration and security service. The infrastructure in ICA (road system, electricity, water supply, public buildings) was improved significantly, primarily owing to aid provided by the Government of Lebanon. However, ICA remained economically dependent on Israel, where more than 2,000 of the inhabitants go to work every day.

11. IDF/DFF carried out sporadic search operations throughout ICA, especially in the villages of Rshaf, At Tiri, Et Taibe and Deir Siriane, and made several arrests. UNIFIL recorded four cases of the families of defectors from DFF being expelled from ICA and forced to vacate their homes at short notice. Reports of forced recruitment to DFF increased. All movement between ICA and other parts of Lebanon remained under the control of IDF/DFF and its security apparatus. A night curfew is still being imposed on the village of Rshaf despite the efforts of UNIFIL to have it lifted (see S/1996/45, para 11).

12. UNIFIL continued to extend assistance to the civilian population in the form of medical care, harvest patrols, clothes, blankets, food, engineering works and the distribution of educational material and equipment to poorer schools. In addition, water projects, equipment or services for schools and orphanages and supplies to social services and needy people were provided from resources made available by troop-contributing countries. UNIFIL medical centres and mobile teams provided care to an average of 3,000 civilian patients per month and a field dental programme treated approximately 100 cases per month. Throughout the period, UNIFIL cooperated closely on humanitarian matters with the Lebanese authorities, United Nations agencies, the International Committee of the Red Cross and other organizations and agencies operating in Lebanon. As in the past, UNIFIL continued the disposal of unexploded ordnance in its area of operation. In all, 116 controlled explosions were carried out.

Organizational matters

13. As of January 1997, UNIFIL comprised 4,505 troops, from Estonia (136), Fiji (591), Finland (499), France (247), Ghana (648), Ireland (622), Italy (45), Nepal (598), Norway (484) and Poland (635). From early December 1996, an Estonian company was deployed in the eastern Norwegian battalion sector as an integrated part of that battalion. UNIFIL was assisted in the performance of its tasks by 57 military observers of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization. In addition, UNIFIL employed 443 civilian staff, of whom 121 were recruited internationally and 322 locally. The deployment of UNIFIL is shown on the annexed map. Major-General Stanislaw F. Wozniak continued as Force Commander.

14. I regret to report that a Polish soldier died of natural causes; a Finnish soldier was slightly wounded as a result of firing. Since the establishment of UNIFIL, 208 members of the Force have died: 76 as a result of firing or bomb

explosions, 84 in accidents and 48 from other causes. A total of 325 have been wounded by firing or by mine or bomb explosions.

15. The problem of the rents owed by the Government of Lebanon to the owners of the land and premises used by UNIFIL has still not been resolved. Not all owners have received payment and there is continuing controversy over the lists of owners prepared by the Lebanese authorities. Some owners have requested that their properties be vacated. For practical and budgetary reasons, only a few of these requests can be met.

16. UNIFIL maintained close contacts with the Lebanese authorities on matters of mutual concern. Those authorities provided valuable assistance in connection with the rotation of troops and logistic activities in Beirut. The Lebanese Army was helpful in defusing confrontations with armed elements. It also provided accommodation for some UNIFIL contingents while on leave in Lebanon. The Force continued to cooperate with the Lebanese Internal Security Forces on matters pertaining to the maintenance of law and order. During the Lebanese parliamentary elections in September 1996, UNIFIL cooperated closely with the Lebanese Army and the Lebanese Internal Security Forces to ensure security in its area of operation.

Financial aspects

17. By its resolution 50/89 B of 7 June 1996, the General Assembly appropriated to the Special Account for UNIFIL an amount of $125,722,800 gross for the maintenance of the Force for the period from 1 July 1996 to 30 June 1997, based on an average strength of 4,513 troops and a continuation of its existing responsibilities. The assessment of the appropriation, which is equivalent to $10,476,900 gross per month, is subject to the decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Force beyond 31 January 1997.

18. As of 31 December 1996, unpaid assessed contributions to the Special Account for UNIFIL amounted to $177,164,145. The total unpaid assessed contributions for all peacekeeping operations at that date amounted to $1.6 billion.

Observations

19. While the level of hostilities was somewhat lower than in the past, the situation in southern Lebanon continued to be tense and volatile, as Israel maintained its occupation of parts of the area, while Lebanese groups continued their attacks against the occupying forces. The UNIFIL mandate, defined in Security Council resolution 425 (1978) and reaffirmed in subsequent resolutions, remained thus unfulfilled.

20. As regards firing into populated areas, the parties exercised a measure of restraint, in accordance with the understanding of 26 April 1996. It is hoped that they will continue to do so. However, this positive development should not obscure the fact that the inherent instability of the situation and the ever-present possibility of renewed deterioration remain a cause for serious concern.

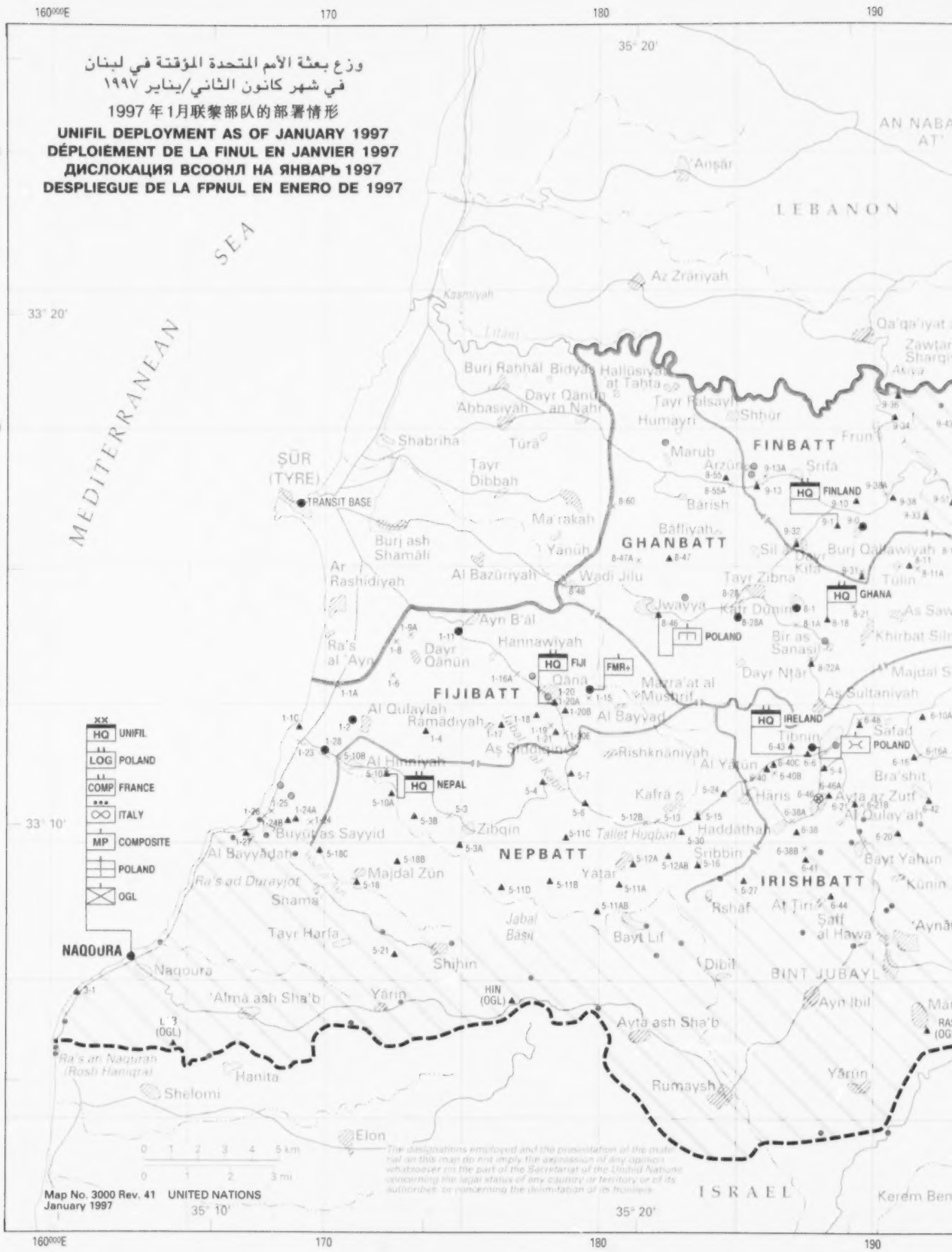
21. The Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations described his Government's position on the situation in a letter he addressed to me on 17 January 1997 (S/1997/41). He also informed me of his Government's decision to request the Security Council to extend UNIFIL's mandate for a further period of six months.

22. Although UNIFIL continued to be prevented from implementing its mandate, its contribution to stability and the protection it is able to afford the population of the area remain important. I therefore recommend that the Security Council accede to the request of the Government of Lebanon and extend the mandate of UNIFIL for another period of six months, until 31 July 1997.

23. It will be recalled that a 65-year-old Palestinian has been accommodated at UNIFIL headquarters since April 1995, after he was deported by the Israeli authorities and denied entry by the Lebanese authorities. I call upon the parties concerned to find a solution to this humanitarian problem as soon as possible.

24. I must again draw attention to the serious shortfall in the funding of the Force. At present, unpaid assessments amount to some $177 million. This represents money owed to the Member States contributing the troops that make up the Force. I appeal to all Member States to pay their assessments promptly and in full and to clear all remaining arrears. I should also like to express my gratitude to the Governments contributing troops to the Force, in particular those of developing countries, for their understanding and patience in these difficult circumstances.

25. In conclusion, I wish to pay tribute to Major-General Stanislaw F. Wozniak, the Force Commander, and to all the men and women under his command for the manner in which they have carried out their difficult and often dangerous task. Their discipline and bearing have been of a high order, reflecting credit on themselves, on their countries and on the United Nations.


وزع بعثة الأمم المتحدة المؤقتة في لبنان
في شهر كانون الثاني/يناير ١٩٩٧
1997 年1月联黎部队的部署情形
UNIFIL DEPLOYMENT AS OF JANUARY 1997
DÉPLOIEMENT DE LA FINUL EN JANVIER 1997
ДИСЛОКАЦИЯ ВСООНЛ НА ЯНВАРЬ 1997
DESPLIEGUE DE LA FPNUL EN ENERO DE 1997
160000E
170
180
190
310000N
300
290
280000N
35° 20'
33° 20'
33° 10'
35° 10'
MEDITERRANEAN SEA
LEBANON
ISRAEL
SUR (TYRE)
TRANSIT BASE
NAQOURA
FINBATT
GHANBATT
FIJIBATT
NEPBATT
IRISHBATT
BINT JUBAYL
HQ UNIFIL
LOG POLAND
COMP FRANCE
ITALY
MP COMPOSITE
POLAND
OGL
HQ FINLAND
HQ GHANA
POLAND
HQ FIJI
FMR+
HQ IRELAND
POLAND
HQ NEPAL
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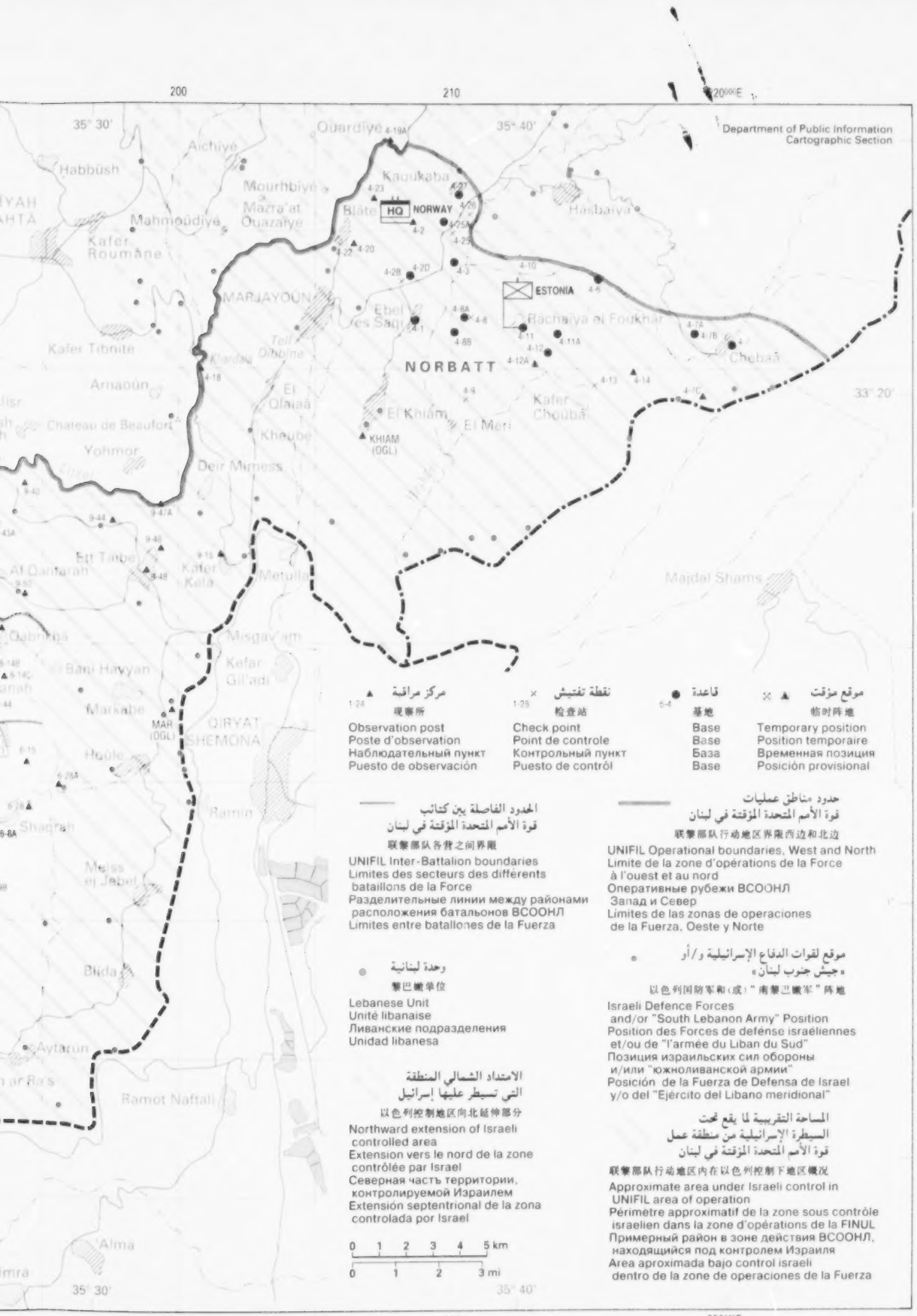
Az Zrariyah
Kasmiyah
Tibnin
Burj Rahhal
Bidyas
Hallusiyah
at Tahta
Dayr Qanun an Nahr
Abbasiyah
Tayr Bulsayl
Humayri
Shhur
Shabriha
Tura
Tayr Dibbah
Marub
Arzun
Srifa
Barish
Ma'rakah
Baflıyah
Burj ash Shamali
Yanuh
Ar Rashidiyah
Al Bazuriyah
Wadi Jilu
Tayr Zibna
Burj Qalawiyah
Kafr Dunin
Jwayya
Ayn B'al
Hannawiyah
Dayr Qanun
Ra's al 'Ayn
Qana
Mara'at al Mushrif
Dayr Ntar
Majdal S
As Sultaniyah
Al Qulaylah
Ramadiyah
Al Bayyad
Rishknaniyah
Al Yatun
Safad
Tibnin
Bra'shit
Al Hinniyah
As Sindiyanah
Kafra
Haris
Ayta az Zutt
Al Qulay'ah
Zibqin
Tallet Huqban
Haddathah
Sribbin
Bayt Yahun
Majdal Zun
Yatar
Rshaf
Al Tiri
Künin
Buyut as Sayyid
Al Bayyadah
Ra's ad Duraydat
Shama
Tayr Harfa
Jabal Basit
Bayt Lif
Shihin
Dibil
Naqoura
'Alma ash Sha'b
Yarin
Ayta ash Sha'b
Ra's an Naqurah (Rosh Hanigra)
Hanita
Shelomi
Rumaysh
Yarun
Elon
Ayn Ibil
0 1 2 3 4 5 km
0 1 2 3 mi
The designations employed and the presentation of the material on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country or territory or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers.
Map No. 3000 Rev. 41 UNITED NATIONS
January 1997


Department of Public Information
Cartographic Section
200
210
220000E
35° 30'
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310000N
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33° 20'
Ouardiye
Aichiye
Habbush
Kaoukaba
Mourhbiye
Mazra'at Ouazaïye
Blate
HQ NORWAY
Hasbaiya
Mahmoudiye
Kafer Roumane
MARJAYOUN
ESTONIA
Ebel es Saqi
Bachaiya el Foukhar
Chebaa
Kafer Tibnite
NORBATT
Arnaoun
El Qlaiaa
El Khiam
El Mari
Kafer Chouba
Chateau de Beaufort
Khaube
KHIAM (OGL)
Yohmor
Deir Mimess
Ett Tabe
Al Qantarah
Kafer Kela
Metulla
Majdal Shams
Misgav'am
Kafer Gil'adi
Bani Hayyan
Markabe
MAR (OGL)
QIRYAT SHEMONA
Houle
Ramia
Shaqra
Meiss el Jebel
Bida
Aytarun
Ramot Naftali
Alma
0 1 2 3 4 5 km
0 1 2 3 mi
مركز مراقبة
觀察所
Observation post
Poste d'observation
Наблюдательный пункт
Puesto de observación
نقطة تفتيش
檢查站
Check point
Point de controle
Контрольный пункт
Puesto de control
قاعدة
基地
Base
Base
База
Base
موقع مؤقت
臨时阵地
Temporary position
Position temporaire
Временная позиция
Posición provisional
الحدود الفاصلة بين كتائب قوة الأمم المتحدة المؤقتة في لبنان
联黎部队各营之间界限
UNIFIL Inter-Battalion boundaries
Limites des secteurs des différents bataillons de la Force
Разделительные линии между районами расположения батальонов ВСООНЛ
Limites entre batallones de la Fuerza
حدود مناطق عمليات قوة الأمم المتحدة المؤقتة في لبنان
联黎部队行动地区界限西边和北边
UNIFIL Operational boundaries, West and North
Limite de la zone d'opérations de la Force à l'ouest et au nord
Оперативные рубежи ВСООНЛ Запад и Север
Límites de las zonas de operaciones de la Fuerza, Oeste y Norte
وحدة لبنانية
黎巴嫩单位
Lebanese Unit
Unité libanaise
Ливанские подразделения
Unidad libanesa
موقع لقوات الدفاع الإسرائيلية و/أو «جيش جنوب لبنان»
以色列国防军和(或)"南黎巴嫩军"阵地
Israeli Defence Forces and/or "South Lebanon Army" Position
Position des Forces de défense israéliennes et/ou de "l'armée du Liban du Sud"
Позиция израильских сил обороны и/или "южноливанской армии"
Posición de la Fuerza de Defensa de Israel y/o del "Ejército del Libano meridional"
الامتداد الشمالي المنطقة التي تسيطر عليها إسرائيل
以色列控制地区向北延伸部分
Northward extension of Israeli controlled area
Extension vers le nord de la zone contrôlée par Israel
Северная часть территории, контролируемой Израилем
Extensión septentrional de la zona controlada por Israel
المساحة التقريبية لما يقع تحت السيطرة الإسرائيلية من منطقة عمل قوة الأمم المتحدة المؤقتة في لبنان
联黎部队行动地区内在以色列控制下地区概况
Approximate area under Israeli control in UNIFIL area of operation
Périmetre approximatif de la zone sous contrôle israelien dans la zone d'opérations de la FINUL
Примерный район в зоне действия ВСООНЛ, находящийся под контролем Израиля
Area aproximada bajo control israeli dentro de la zone de operaciones de la Fuerza

UNITED
NATIONS

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S/1997/43
17 January 1997

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-first session
Agenda items 31, 33, 35, 39, 56, 58 and 74
COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE ORGANIZATION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST
QUESTION OF PALESTINE
THE SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY
THE SITUATION IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
QUESTION OF CYPRUS
THE RISK OF NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-second year

Letter dated 13 January 1997 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Indonesia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of the Final Communiqué of the Organization of the Islamic Conference Annual Coordination Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, held at the United Nations, New York, on 2 October 1996.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 31, 33, 35, 39, 56, 58 and 74, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Makarim WIBISONO
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires

97-01557 (E) 040297 070297

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ANNEX

[Original: Arabic, English and French]

Final Communiqué of the Organization of the Islamic Conference Annual Coordination Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, held at the United Nations, New York, on 2 October 1996

The OIC Annual Coordination Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs was held on 20 Jumada I, 1417H corresponding to 2 October 1996 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, under the Chairmanship of His Excellency Mr. Lamine Kamara, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Guinea, Chairman of the Twenty-Third Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.

2. **Her Excellency Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto**, Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, honoured the Meeting by her presence and delivered a key note address at the opening session.

3. **The Meeting** noted with appreciation the Reports of the Secretary General on the items of the Agenda and approved the recommendations contained therein.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN

4. **The Meeting** unanimously admitted the Republic of Uzbekistan as a full member of the OIC.

QUESTION OF PALESTINE AND AL-QUDS AL-SHARIF

5. **The Meeting** endorsed the recommendations contained in the Report of the Six-Member Committee on Palestine.

6. **The Meeting** endorsed the Communique of the Six-Member Committee on the bloody events caused by Israel's opening of a tunnel in Al-Quds Al-Sharif, which endangers Islamic and Christian holy shrines, especially the Blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque, and on the ensuing grave deterioration of the situation in Al-Quds Al-Sharif and the other occupied Palestinian territories.

7. **The Meeting** issued a Special Declaration on the storming by the Israeli occupation authorities into the Al-Aqsa Mosque.

8. **The Meeting** endorsed Resolution S/RES.1073 adopted on 28 September 1996, by the Security Council on the serious deterioration of the situation in Al-Quds Al-Sharif and the other occupied Palestinian territories. It called for action by the international community to force Israel to immediately close the tunnel and put an end to its aggressions against the Palestinian people.

9. **The Meeting** called for continued support for the PLO and its position in the negotiations with Israel aimed at establishing the PLO's authority over all Palestinian territory, including Al-Quds Al-Sharif, as one geographical entity, ensuring the transfer of all powers and responsibilities in all fields to the Palestinian National Authority and extending support in all areas to enable it to remove the vestiges of Israeli occupation, establish Palestinian national institutions and realize the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people, including its right to return, to self-determination and to establish its own independent state on its national soil with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital.

10. **The Meeting** reaffirmed its support for the Middle East Peace Process and the implementation of all the agreements signed and the commitments made in this context between the parties concerned in accordance with the underpinnings of the process launched in Madrid, especially the principle of land for peace and the UN resolutions, in particular Security Council Resolutions 242, 338 and 425 which demand Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories including Al-Quds Al-Sharif, the occupied Syrian Golan, the occupied Lebanese territory; and the realization of the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people.

11. **The Meeting** reaffirmed that Al-Quds Al-Sharif forms an integral part of the Palestinian territory occupied in 1967 and whatever is applicable to other occupied Palestinian territories also applies to it in implementation of the resolutions of the Security Council and the UN General Assembly; it urged action to halt all measures, practices and decisions adopted by the Israeli occupation authorities in Al-Quds Al-Sharif, aimed at altering the city's geographic and demographic set-up and violating Islamic and Christian Holy Places therein with a view to Judaizing the Holy City; and called for redoubling efforts to restore Al-Quds Al-Sharif to Palestinian sovereignty as the capital of the State of Palestine, so as to ensure peace and security in the region.

12. **The Meeting** invited the international community, in particular the two Sponsors of the Peace Conference and the states of the European Union: to compel Israel to cease all settlement activities in the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories, including Al-Quds Al-Sharif and the occupied Syrian Golan. To adopt firm positions towards these measures which contravene international resolutions, including Security Council Resolution 465, and the principles of International Law as well as the agreements signed between the Palestinian and Israeli parties, and which constitute a serious and real threat to the entire peace process. It requested the Security Council to set up an International Monitoring Committee to prevent the establishment of settlements in the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories.

13. **The Meeting** called for action within UN and international institutions and fora to compel Israel to release the detainees; return the deportees; halt the methods of mass punishment; cease the confiscation of lands and properties and the demolition of homes; also cease any actions that threaten life and the environment in the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories, including Al-Quds Al-Sharif. To call for a more effective UN action to ensure the success of the Middle East peace process, for a reaffirmation of the UN responsibility for the cause of Palestine until a just and comprehensive solution to all its aspects is found, a solution that puts an end to occupation and fulfills the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people.

14. **The Meeting** recommended that, in the event of a total breakdown of the peace process, the possibility of re-examining the normalization of relations with Israel should be considered and that consultations should be held on this question at the appropriate time.

15. **The Meeting** urged the international community and the Security Council to compel Israel to comply with the UN resolutions, in particular Security Council Resolution 487 (1981); to join the Nuclear Arms Non-Proliferation Treaty; to implement the decisions of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) which call for subjecting all Israeli nuclear facilities to the Agency's System of Comprehensive Safeguards; that Israel should declare its renunciation of nuclear armament and submit a complete statement on its stockpile of nuclear weapons and materials to the Security Council and the IAEA. This step is essential for establishing an area free from mass-destruction weapons including, in particular, nuclear weapons in the Middle East, and for bringing about a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

16. **The Meeting** stressed the need to coordinate the positions of Member States so as to maintain the principled stand of the OIC vis-à-vis all the resolutions concerning the cause of Palestine and the Arab-Israeli conflict, which are submitted for discussion to the Fifty-first Session of the UN General Assembly.

SITUATION IN BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

17. **The Meeting** endorsed the recommendations contained in the Report of the OIC Contact Group on Bosnia and Herzegovina and reaffirmed previous resolutions and declarations adopted by the OIC Summit and Ministerial Meetings as well as the Sarajevo Declaration of Friendship and Partnership adopted by the Enlarged Ministerial Meeting of the OIC Contact Group on Bosnia and Herzegovina on 10 April, 1996.

18. **The Meeting** reaffirmed the commitment of the OIC Member States to the integrity and sovereignty of the State of Bosnia and Herzegovina within its internationally recognized borders and fully supported the establishment of a democratic, multi-ethnic and multi-cultural Bosnia and Herzegovina.

19. **The Meeting** emphasized the importance of ensuring the full, impartial and effective implementation of the Dayton Peace Agreement and urged the international community, particularly the Members of the UN Security Council, the Five-Nation Contact Group on Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Peace Implementation Council to support the peaceful and democratic reintegration of the State of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

20. **The Meeting** noted that the conditions stipulated under the Dayton Peace Agreement for the holding of free and fair elections were not fulfilled in the 14 September 1996 elections in the Bosnian-Serb entity such as freedom of movement, freedom of the media, return of refugees and displaced persons.

21. **The Meeting** expressed serious concern over the negative role of separatists during the elections and warned the international community of the threat posed to the democratic reunification of the State of Bosnia and Herzegovina and urged that all necessary steps be taken to ensure that separatist Serb pre-election rhetoric does not materialize and is not allowed to interfere with the process of reintegration.

22. **The Meeting** emphasized the need to counter separatists and called on the international community to support the viability and effective functioning of the common institutions for the smooth reintegration of the State of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

23. **The Meeting** expressed its hope that the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina will be fully established and called on the partners to implement the relevant Agreements, including the dismantling of the institutions of the self-styled Herceg-Bosna and the establishment and full-functioning of Federation institutions.

24. **The Meeting** called upon the international community to take concrete measures for the arrest of all indicted war criminals notably Karadzic, Mladic and others, and to expeditiously deliver them to the International Criminal Tribunal for Former Yugoslavia as required under the Tribunal's Indictment Act of 25 July 1996 and the arrest warrant issued by the Tribunal.

25. **The Meeting** urged the UN Security Council to utilize the enforcement procedures under the UN Charter, including those envisaged under Chapter VII of the Charter, to secure the delivery of indicted war criminals by the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) and the Republic of Croatia.

26. **The Meeting** urged those countries and multilateral institutions that have pledged resources for the reconstruction of Bosnia and Herzegovina to immediately disburse the funds in order to ensure timely completion of priority projects.

27. **The Meeting** noted the requirement of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) under the Dayton Agreement to establish diplomatic relations with the

State of Bosnia and Herzegovina without pre-condition and called upon the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) to do so.

28. **The Meeting** reaffirmed its strong support of Security Council resolution 777 (1992) and General Assembly resolution 47/1 (1992) which decided that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) should apply as new member of the United Nations and should not inherit the seat of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia which has ceased to exist.

29. **The Meeting** reiterated the readiness of the OIC Member States and OIC institutions to take active part in providing resources for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Bosnia and Herzegovina by promoting bilateral programmes of assistance and cooperation as well as through the Assistance Mobilization Group and other institutions of the OIC.

JAMMU AND KASHMIR DISPUTE

30. **The Meeting** endorsed the recommendations contained in the Report of the OIC Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir and reaffirmed previous resolutions and declarations adopted by the OIC at its Summit and Ministerial Meetings, in particular the Special Declaration on Jammu and Kashmir Dispute adopted by the Seventh Islamic Summit Conference in December, 1994 at Casablanca, Kingdom of Morocco.

31. **The True Representatives of the Kashmiri People** who were invited to attend the Meeting addressed the Contact Group and presented a Memorandum on the Jammu and Kashmir Dispute.

32. **The meeting** reaffirmed the right of the people of Jammu and Kashmir to self-determination in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions.

33. **The Meeting** expressed deep concern at the intensification of Indian repression against the Kashmiri people and their true representatives and reaffirmed its solidarity with the oppressed people of Kashmir.

34. **The Meeting** condemned the continuing massive violations of human rights of the Kashmiri people and called upon the Member States to take all necessary steps to persuade India to cease forthwith the gross and systematic violations of the human rights of the Kashmiri people.

35. **The Meeting** rejected India's efforts to maintain its illegal occupation of Jammu and Kashmir through the holding of sham elections and by initiating a fraudulent political process and reaffirmed that any political process/elections held under foreign occupation cannot be a substitute to the exercise of the right of self-determination by the people of

Jammu and Kashmir through a UN supervised plebiscite as is provided in the relevant Security Council resolutions.

36. **The Meeting** called for a peaceful political settlement to the Jammu and Kashmir dispute on the basis of the United Nations resolutions and endorsed the efforts of the Government of Pakistan to seek a peaceful solution to the Kashmir issue through all possible means including substantive bilateral talks with India and called upon the Government of India to respond positively to these efforts.

37. **The Meeting** appealed for the immediate and safe release of all the hostages by "Al-Faran".

38. **The Meeting** adopted the annexed Declaration on Jammu and Kashmir (see appendix I).

39. **The Meeting** endorsed the Memorandum on Jammu and Kashmir Dispute presented by the True Representatives of the Kashmiri people (see appendix II).

40. **The Meeting** recommended that the Chairman of the Coordination Meeting request the President of the Security Council and the UN Secretary General to circulate the Declaration and the Memorandum as official documents of the Security Council and the General Assembly under the relevant agenda items.

41. **The Meeting** further recommended that OIC Member States urge the Security Council to prevail upon India to seek a peaceful settlement of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute on the basis of Security Council resolutions.

42. **The Meeting** also recommended that OIC Member States intensify their efforts during the current Session of the UN General Assembly to promote the right of self-determination of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN

43. **The Meeting** expressed the hope that the Afghan parties would peacefully resolve their political differences and collectively work for the restoration of peace and stability in the country.

44. **The Meeting** emphasized that the OIC, which has consistently endeavoured to promote a peaceful political settlement in Afghanistan, will continue to closely work with the Afghan parties in bringing peace to their country.

45. **The Meeting** reaffirmed that the OIC would also continue to coordinate its efforts with the international community to promote peace, national reconciliation, rehabilitation and reconstruction in Afghanistan.

SITUATION IN SOMALIA

46. **The Meeting** reaffirmed its commitment to the restoration of the unity, sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of Somalia. It further reiterated its commitment to the promotion of peace and national reconciliation in Somalia.

47. **The Meeting** urged all Somali political factions and movements to cease armed hostilities and abide by the Addis Ababa Peace Accords and removing all impediments to restoring peace and tranquility in Somalia.

CONFLICT BETWEEN AZERBAIJAN AND ARMENIA

48. **The Meeting** strongly condemned the Armenian aggression against the Azerbaijan Republic and demanded the immediate, unconditional and complete withdrawal of Armenian forces from all occupied Azeri territories. It called upon Armenia to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Azerbaijan Republic.

49. **The Meeting** reaffirmed the principle of inadmissibility of acquisition of territory by force and called for a just and peaceful settlement on the basis of respect for the principles of territorial integrity of states and inviolability of internationally recognized frontiers. It called for providing humanitarian assistance to the refugees and displaced persons in the territory of Azerbaijan and for creation of conditions conducive for their return to their homes in safety, honour and dignity.

CONSEQUENCES OF IRAQI AGGRESSION AGAINST KUWAIT AND IRAQ'S NON-COMPLIANCE WITH SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS

50. **The Meeting** recalled all previous OIC declarations and resolutions regarding the Iraqi invasion and occupation of Kuwait. It deplored that the Iraqi government has not fully complied with UN resolutions and called on Iraq to fulfil its obligations under the relevant Security Council resolutions for establishment of security, peace and stability in the region. It reaffirmed its full support to the independence and territorial integrity of the Republic of Iraq.

51. **The Meeting** expressed its concern over the continued detention of Kuwaiti citizens and other detainees in Iraq and called upon the Iraqi authorities for their immediate release. It expressed its distress for the ordeal endured by the people of Iraq due to the non-compliance by the Iraqi regime with the decisions of international legitimacy.It reaffirmed the necessity of full compliance by Iraq with all UN Security Council resolutions so as to enable the final restoration of peace in the Gulf region and to put an end to the sufferings of the Iraqi people.

CRISIS BETWEEN THE GREAT SOCIALIST PEOPLE'S LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA AND THE UNITED STATES, UNITED KINGDOM AND FRANCE

52. **The Meeting** expressed its appreciation for the readiness of the Jamahiriya to cooperate in efforts to combat terrorism, and to settle the dispute peacefully by conducting a useful dialogue with the parties to the conflict. It condemned the continuation of sanctions against the Jamahiriya and expressed its concern over the threat to impose further sanctions. It called on all parties concerned to avoid any escalation of tension which would be detrimental to the Libyan people and neighbouring states.

53. **The Meeting** reiterated its appeal to the Security Council to reconsider its resolutions 731/92, 748/92 and 883/93 and lift the sanctions imposed on the Jamahiriya. It called on the parties concerned to respond to the initiatives for dialogue and negotiations for reaching a peaceful solution of the crisis in accordance with Article (33) of Chapter VI of the United Nations Charter.

QUESTION OF TURKISH MUSLIM COMMUNITY OF CYPRUS

54. **The Meeting** expressed its full solidarity and support for the just cause of the Turkish Muslim community of Cyprus and reaffirmed all previous OIC resolutions and declarations on Cyprus. It called for a just political settlement; respecting the legitimate aspirations of the Turkish Cypriot people and emphasized, in this regard, the key importance of respecting the principle of equal political status in the attainment of a freely negotiated and mutually acceptable solution.

CHECHNYA

55. **The Meeting** took note of the recent developments in Chechnya and emphasized the need to continue the ongoing efforts to achieve a lasting political settlement to the conflict.

CANDIDATURES FOR U.N. BODIES

56. **The Meeting** took note of the candidatures of nationals of Member/Observer States to various UN bodies and called on Member States to extend their support to these candidatures.

COORDINATION BETWEEN MEMBER STATES

57. **The Meeting** welcomed the efforts undertaken by the OIC Member States in New York and Geneva to promote greater coordination between the OIC Member States and decided that the Member States closely concert their efforts on regular basis on all issues of interest to them, in particular, during the Fifty-First Session of the UN General Assembly, with a view to seeking the adoption of appropriate resolutions on political, economic, social and humanitarian issues.

APPENDIX I

[Original: Arabic, English and French]

Declaration on Jammu and Kashmir recommended by the Organization of the Islamic Conference Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir for adoption by the Organization of the Islamic Conference Coordination Meeting of Foreign Ministers

The OIC Coordination Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs held at the United Nations in New York on 2 October 1996;

Recalling all OIC resolutions as well as Security Council Resolutions pertaining to Jammu and Kashmir;

Seriously concerned over the deteriorating situation in Indian Occupied Kashmir and its implications for regional peace and security;

Alarmed over the intensification of repression and continued violations of the human rights of Kashmiri people including their denial of their inalienable right to self-determination, the holding of so-called elections in Occupied Kashmir through military force, coercion and rigging;

Rejecting all efforts aimed at imposing through coercion and force any political process aimed at denying the Kashmiris their right of self-determination, as stipulated in relevant UN resolutions;

Noting the Memorandum submitted by the True Representatives of the Kashmiri people;

1. Reaffirms all OIC Summit and Ministerial Resolutions on Jammu and Kashmir dispute.

2. Further reaffirms that any political process/ elections held under foreign occupation cannot be a substitute to the exercise of the right of self- determination of the people of Kashmir as is provided in the relevant Security Council resolutions.

3. Calls for a peaceful settlement of the Jammu and Kashmir issue in accordance with relevant UN resolutions.

4. Supports the ongoing efforts of the Government of Pakistan to seek a peaceful solution to the Kashmir issue through all possible means including substantive bilateral talks with India and requests the Government of India to reciprocate.

5. Calls upon the Government of India to respect the human rights of the Kashmiris including their right to self-determination.

APPENDIX II

[Original: Arabic, English and French]

Memorandum presented by true representatives of the Kashmiri people to the Ministerial Meeting of the Organization of the Islamic Conference Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir held in New York on 30 September 1996

The Kashmir representatives:

Recalling the relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council upholding the right to self-determination of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Recalling that the Security Council has clearly enunciated that, on the basis of the agreement concluded between India and Pakistan, "the final disposition of the state of Jammu and Kashmir will be made in accordance with the will of the people expressed through the democratic method of a free and impartial plebiscite conducted under the auspices of the United Nations".

Also recalling that the United Nations Security Council had declared that the creation of a Constituent Assembly or holding of any elections in Jammu and Kashmir by the Indian government will not be a substitute for a free and impartial plebiscite mandated by the Security Council to determine the will of the people of Kashmir.

Deeply alarmed by the sharp intensification of Indian repression of the Kashmiri people, especially the induction of additional troops, the use of renegades and mercenaries, armed, financed and trained by India for terrorizing and intimidating the Kashmiri people.

Declare that any elections organized by the Indian Government will never constitute a substitute for the plebiscite pledged by the United Nations to the people of Jammu and Kashmir who have never accepted the sovereignty of India over their territory.

Reject the farce of fraudulent elections imposed by the Indian Government on the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Condemn the continuing violations of human rights in Jammu and Kashmir which have claimed the lives of 50,000 Kashmiri men, women and children, rape of thousands of women and unlawful detention of tens of thousands of political prisoners.

Also condemn the inhuman crimes of genocide, massacres, extra-judicial killings, reprisal killings, arbitrary detention, torture, use of rape as an instrument of suppression, burning of houses, villages and townships, and destruction and desecration of holy places, committed by the Indian Government, through its military and paramilitary personnel, renegades and mercenaries in Jammu and Kashmir during the last seven years.

Express deep concern at the continuing campaign of harassment, intimidation and repression being carried out against the leaders of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference.

Note that the gravity of the situation in Jammu and Kashmir has been further aggravated by the Indian refusal to sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT).

Endorse the on-going efforts of the Government of Pakistan to seek a peaceful solution to the Kashmir issue through all possible means;

Resolve that:

(a) the people of Jammu and Kashmir will not accept any elections held under Indian occupation;

(b) the people of Jammu and Kashmir shall continue their struggle for the realization of their right to self-determination promised to them under UN Security Council Resolutions;

(c) the aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir constitute the sole basis for the final disposition of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute.

Call on:

(a) the OIC Contact Group on Kashmir to express its serious concern to India at the recent sham elections in Jammu and Kashmir, which contravene Resolutions 91 (1951) and 122 (1957) of the UN Security Council. These resolutions have clearly affirmed that "any action that (the Indian Government) may have taken, or might attempt to take to determine the future shape and affiliation (of Jammu and Kashmir) would not constitute a disposition of the State" in terms of these resolutions;

(b) the OIC Contact Group on Kashmir to impress upon the Indian Government to desist from exacerbating tensions in Jammu and Kashmir and between India and Pakistan;

(c) the Organization of the Islamic Conference to renew to the Government of India its offer of sending its fact finding mission to Jammu and Kashmir;

(d) the Organisation of the Islamic Conference to renew to the Government of India its offer of sending its Good Offices mission to Jammu and Kashmir;

(e) the United Nations to ask India to withdraw its army of occupation from Jammu and Kashmir and to hold a plebiscite in Jammu and Kashmir, in a time-bound framework in accordance with the U.N. Security Council resolutions;

(f) the U.N. Secretary-General to initiate a process of mediation to pave the way for the holding of a plebiscite in Jammu and Kashmir as laid down by the United Nations Security Council;

(g) the United Nations to send a good will mission to India, Pakistan and Jammu and Kashmir to facilitate resolution of the conflict.

(h) the United Nations to appoint a Special Representative on Jammu and Kashmir.

(i) the United Nations Security Council to expand the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP) and give it the additional mandate to monitor human rights situations in Indian-held Kashmir and report on it. --

(j) the United Nations Human Rights Commission to appoint a Special Rapporteur on Jammu and Kashmir.

(k) the United Nations Human Rights Commission to mandate the existing Special Rapporteurs on Torture, Extrajudication, killing Women, and Religious Intolerance to focus on the human rights crisis in Indian-held Kashmir.

(l) the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to designate Kashmiri people as "persons of concern" or internal refugees so that they could receive the United Nations humanitarian assistance.

(m) the ICRC to intensify its efforts in Indian-held Kashmir.

(n) the international community to put pressure on India to give full access to international human rights organizations to visit Jammu and Kashmir;

(o) the Government of Pakistan to continue its efforts for a peaceful solution of the Kashmir issue, keeping in view the aspirations of the Kashmiri people, through all possible means, including a substantive and meaningful dialogue with India.

Appeal to all peace-loving people and nations of the world to help and support the people of Jammu and Kashmir in their struggle for the realization of their right to self-determination promised to them under the UN Security Council resolutions.

UNITED NATIONS **S**

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S/1997/44
17 January 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 17 JANUARY 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ERITREA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you a press release issued on 16 January 1997 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Eritrea rejecting the unfounded and baseless accusations made by the National Islamic Front (NIF) regime of the Sudan against my country.

I should be grateful if you would kindly circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Amdemicael KAHSAI
Permanent Representative

97-01384 (E) 200197

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Annex

Press release issued on 16 January 1997 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Eritrea

Today, 16 January 1997, the Sudanese NIF government has once again embarked on levelling unfounded and baseless allegations against Eritrea.

According to information released by the NIF regime, Sudanese forces allegedly rebuked an Eritrean aggression inside Sudanese territory by killing 250 Eritrean soldiers against seven of its own. This deliberate fabrication and self-deceiving practice of the NIF regime is a continuation of the chain of accusations which the Sudanese Government has been shamelessly engaged in for a long time by pointing its finger at its neighbours in order to divert the attention of the Sudanese people and the international community at large from the prevailing grim situation in the country.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Eritrea categorically rejects the fabricated report of a military confrontation between Eritrean and Sudanese forces across the border.